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Letter from Mary to Family- April 12, 1925

Mary Behner

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April 12, 1925.

Dearest Family.

It will probably take all afternoon to write this - so last weeks letter will be in this one. This is a wonderful Easter day. We have had lovely services this morning. Prey preached but above me - We sang a beautiful anthem without the organ accompaniment. Miss Arnold sang a beautiful solo with the violin obligato played by Prof. Parmelee. His wife teaches piano here and she is wonderful. Esther must have her when she comes. Miss Arnold & I have so much fun when I take my lesson. She is so interested. She says I take to vocal like duck takes to water and that I'm making wonderful progress. She's anxious for you to see what you think, mother. You shall go down to the conserv. with me when you come when I take my lessons. She has given me three of Mendelssohn's songs already and I'm working on some Italian pieces. I enjoy it so much and she told me I did and that it made it so simple for her. I always have to have some one accompany me now though.

Here it is the middle of April
and there is only one more full month
besides part of June. School does June.
There are 10 more weeks I think. It
doesn't seem possible. Do you know
for sure when both of you are
coming. Aunt Sarah said something
that made me think that you would
both come at the same time. Aunt
Clara ^{Bella Sanders} is looking splendid, and Charlie
looks wonderful - I never saw him ^{Sanders}
so jolly and well. Everyone is fine.
I had a wonderful time in Toledo.
We took the train up because neither
could manage to get off. Red ^{Bolton} is so
busy now. They can't get in enough
cars to sell. Sullivan ^{Bolton} is teaching in

the morning and ² making a full day's journey.
In a day. Teaching doesn't bother her a bit
she seems to know everything ^{so} so it is
a snap for her. Dorothea ^{is} looking
dandy and has a number of suitors
One especially - Ralph from the bank - is
a little older than the rest and has
lots of money and pep. Eliza ^{is} looking
up and quite happy. Viola ^{is} has
never liked any of her teaching as
much as she does this she is doing
at the "Home". You probably have
imagined what a wonderful
time we all had together. They
live just around the corner from
Dorwin's so we trotted back and
forth quite frequently. It was easy
to make plans - being so near.
The first night we got there Louise's
little man had planned a party -
and as you know it was April Fool's
day. We got there & Dorwin met
us at the train (Baharens had
come to the earlier train and we
weren't there. We ate a hurried supper
and then Ralph, another fellow and
a girl called for us with their sedan
It was at Ralph's home. There were
about 15 there. We played games
& ended up with dancing. I had so
much fun. The first game we
played was a advertisement contest.
I won the prize for that which
was a chicken (not a real one).
Then the next game we played was
a peanut hunt. We said that there
were peanuts hid & hid very hard &
~~they were~~ we would have to look
good to find them. We hunted for

about 5 minutes. All of a sudden I rushed to Ralph and before I hardly knew it told him there weren't any peanuts hid - that it was April Fool. No one had found any and I was so surprised at myself because I said it before I hardly realized it - He looked at me, stuck his hand in his pocket and pulled out pulled out a bag of peanuts. Everyone was so surprised and so was I. Of course I didn't dance and it was so hard hard.

Slept at Irwin's ~~tonight~~ that night. The next day Louise had a lot of shopping to do and I thought they would rather to it alone - probably - prices - time etc so I think they were pleased when I suggested going over to Luella's - because I hadn't seen her yet. Lu & I went shopping in the afternoon. That evening I thought the Irwins would appreciate being home alone so was at Bahnsens for the evening and over night.

We went to the Toledo Theatre and saw a wonderful play. They have a fine stock company. The next day in the afternoon (Fri) ~~three~~ 4 of ~~us~~ girls went to a movie and saw Cohen's movie in "Sally." That was darling. Then Fri eve ^{Gus} Bahnsens took me over to see aunt Edith ^{Winkbach} ^{Baker}

They live in a duplex - a very small place - fixed ^{very} plain & neat. I had seen ^{Belong to the} ^{Edith} work that afternoon. "Jud" is looking just splendid but Edith - she is aging so fast and she looks tired and worried & talks like she is so discouraged. She doesn't like Toledo at all and talks as if

they were going back to Portland this summer. Belba is a sweet girl & much different than her picture. The boys have grown - The smallest hasn't changed much but the older one has features and a head like Finn Drumbock. Like the nice one - I guess that's Finn. Edith works so hard that's the only chance I got to see her because every other night was planned and they all work during the day. I showed them our family pictures. Stayed with Bahnsen that night also. Saturday Dorothy, Lu, Viola, Louise & I went shopping. Can you imagine 5 girls getting any shopping done? Well we did and we had just loads of fun doing it. Looked all over town before we got the things I wanted at proper price. Bought a dark pink & white striped flannel dress with a little Peter pan color - real short sleeves & a little blue string belt & a white silk type tie in the front. It looks great on me & everyone likes it. Paid \$10 for it. We looked & looked - everything was \$15 or more & finally we found this one at La Salle. Then I bought goods for a little silk summer dress & found some at a dollar a yd - green of course - a silk crepe - pretty - wanted a full for down the front pinned them & they were 2.50 its a yd. Finally we saw one we decided to copy & got the net & paid 60¢ for the whole thing. So the dress only cost me \$3.10 and it's darling.

I haven't told you that Luella went
ahead and made it. I wore it today.
One other morning I was down town
& saw a darling green silk sweater
on sale for \$2.00 - Bought it and am
wearing it with my tan silk skirt &
green hose. It is so cool looking.
Then I bought a pair of pattern leather
slippers for \$6 which is very
reasonable for the spring prices. They
are lovely too. Everything I bought
was good and sensible. I'll have
to do without any more now till
summer. I can't see any "nest egg"
for next year. Didn't there any left
from my gifts after I paid my
obligations here. I bought a diary
also - a five yr. one for \$6.00. It
is lovely green leather and has a
lock and key. Lennie bought coat,
hat, shoes - 2 pieces. Everyone has
come back with the loveliest new
things. It was fun looking at
the pretty colors in church this
morning from the choir. Everyone
looked so nice & fresh - - like a
flower bed.

Saturday night the Woastie Glee
club sang at T. H. H. There was a
dance afterwards. Half of the club
doesn't dance so we talked
at the close of the concert. The
club sang the "Love Song" and
all the alumni & students of
Wooster stood up and sang with
them. Stayed out I don't sit out
and went to church with them
Sunday morning. Spent Sunday out
at Claras - the whole family -

was there. We had fish for dinner. They hadn't seen Albrights since we were there in Sept. and I wanted to go and say hello to them. They weren't crazy about the idea - of course - but I insisted that I should stop a minute (altho they couldn't - the girls I mean - understand exactly why I wanted to.) I knew you would do it & I did my part. Just drove in & honked - didn't even get out of the car. Of course I didn't expect them to welcome us but I didn't expect them to freeze us either. When we honked, ~~my~~ Ed May, I think her name is, looked out the kitchen door, slammed it & went back in. Saw Edith came out. She was slightly fussed to say the least. I had seen her in the distance! He came up with some other company near the car but not over - I said where's uncle Lew? Then she called him. He made a better bluff than she did albite. We didn't stay more than 5 min or 10. She asked us to come out but I said I was all backed up. B'live me we were nice to them. Lew asked me if Dad was here - we think he got a scare - thinking you maybe had come on account of the hearing. I suppose you have heard about all the trouble. Sarah is so Christian about it - much much more so than the girls. The girls have nothing to coundse about Albrights at all. I don't feel that way altho I know they don't deserve anything from us.

Sunday night I went to church with Bahnsens. Monday night a relative of Duvin's gave us a theatre party. We went to the Toledo "again" and saw the same stock company in a different play. Tue. night Mrs. Duvin gave us a dinner party. I said I would make stuffed potatoes and the salad. As it was near Easter I made egg nest salad and stuck a du funny if it. Then I got some cute place cards. They appreciated it so much and it only cost me a little. Wish you would write to Mrs.

Duvin & tell her how much you appreciated their opening their home to me for they were wonderful. Her address.

Mrs. Duvin

622 Greenwood Ave - Toledo.

Also you must write Luella & tell her - please. Mrs. Duvin would appreciate it so much. And please mention to Luella how dear of her it was to make my dress & help me shop. She was lovely about it & helped me cut down the expenses so much by planning. She is so sweet. She treated me specially. Did everything she could for me. Bahnsens even brought us back - and we had a circus. Took a big new Buick sedan started at 12:30 and made it in 3 1/2 hr. counting stops etc. Guess! Charlie, Clara, Aunt Betty Bahnsens & Lamm & I all in the car. You can imagine the pretty time we had.

I'll tell you they couldn't have given me a nicer time. I was the 7th person back. Cleaned my room that night. Bats didn't come till 5 - the next morning.

Louis brother doesn't have anything to do with girls (21) & partly because a girl he took out once proved to be quite fast. He doesn't care to even talk to girls. When I left - the last two days - he was pretty nice to me and his mother told me some ~~lovely~~ things he said and she was surprised herself. It is a good chap - and it tickled me. Will you write to them -

I am now on the porch writing waiting for my date. Paul - it is. We are going to hear a cantata at the Pres. church down town. I am going to give him fewer dates. He knows I go with other fellows - he sees me & I tell him but nevertheless I don't - - - want him to like me so much -

I got an A+ on my thesis "German Youth Movement" - He picked out the best 3 in class to read & mine was one. The other two were boys. Just handed in an essay, "On writing an Essay". It's quite different and practical in parts: altho I didn't put much effort on it.

My the campus is beautiful. There are so many students out it. The dates are just beginning to come & go. "Spring weather is so distracting". That was a sentence in my essay.

=9=

Have been given the management of the Freshmen in the dance of dawn for May Day. - There are quite a few dances. They will be so beautiful. Will be fine if Dad & you can both be here. The crowning of the May queen will be so beautiful. Did Esther say that she has a Baby Grand.

The time now will pass so rapidly till vacation.

Perhaps I will add more on this later —

Much love

(Dad.)

It is Mon. morning now and will say Goodbye again. It is a beautiful morning. Oh so pretty.
Lots of love

Berto sends love.